754 as a result of the magician's natural spitefulness (ézezam • wickedness, disorder; nielañ • malevolence, from élañ • an evil act committed expressly and without necessity: a woe bot elan • he who kills for pleasure, ndan of the begóvina • from the German occupation until

> •/No footnote is given to this puzzling phrase, but "begóvina" may mean "government people." —Tr./

the present). A protective bian against the beyem can be used against an innocent mie, a magical weapon, a spell against a brother. Such an action may constitute not only an étom, a delict, but also a nsem, *a breaking of taboo, when initiation into magical technique included* a prohibition against using it for evil ends. The same thing holds for the use of certain methods, illegal or immoral in themselves, even when the purpose is permissible or morally good: this is the case with the bian for /ensuring/ conjugal fidelity, which consists of the husband having his wife drink his sperm; with that for curing an illness by transferring it to another person (transfer to an animal or plant is permissible); with the use of certain mebian for fertility, etc. The commonest acts of sorcery do not belong in the ngbwel category (and perhaps also in that of the kón) and would lead simply to a "civil" suit, neither more nor less than a case of assault and battery or a
683 "natural" homicide. Ngbwel, on the contrary, is always a capital crime, provided that the nnem be not too powerful to escape judgment or punishment.

e. Permissible Magic, Divination, Medicine

789 The first aim of licit magic is to fight against sorcerers, especially beyem, but that is only one of its aspects. In fact, it extends to all life's activities, and everyone uses it to a greater or less extent, aside from the specialists, ngengañ or ngañ, magician, mvimvi'i, diviner, mbibian, healer, and nyia bia, singer.(1).

• 793 1. Among the Ewóndo there used to be a sort of priest, nzomelo, often a chief, who received the first fruits of maize, blessed sowings, and presided over the ancestor cult. (J. B.)